

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5-15 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, new claims 8-15 are added and claims 3-4 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lye (U.S. Patent No. 6,227,636; hereinafter "Lye") in view of Vardon (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0190620; hereinafter "Vardon"). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lye in view of Vardon and Maruta (U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0030491; hereinafter "Maruta"). Applicant respectfully submits the arguments below in traversal of the claim rejections.

Rejection of Claims 1-7 under § 112, first and second paragraphs

Applicant submits that claims 1-7 comply with § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 7 under § 103(a) over Lye in view of Vardon

Rejection of Claims 4-6 under § 103(a) over Lye in view of Vardon and Maruta

Applicant amends claim 1 by incorporating the subject matter of claims 3 and 4. In the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Lye discloses the refrigerator and Vardon discloses in paragraph 43 and Figs. 2 and 3, the claimed shelf.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is believed to be patentable because the combination of Lye, Vardon and Maruta fails to teach, suggest or provide motivation for a refrigerator wherein the coupler comprises a plurality of screws horizontally penetrated into the plurality of penetrating holes and accommodated in the plurality of coupling bosses.

Although Maruta discloses the use of screw 30, a screw fastening hole 11b1 and a boss 11b in Fig. 4, Maruta teaches the use of such components to reduce the gap between the front cabinet 13 of a television set and a flat picture screen 21. In other words, Maruta teaches the application of screw 30 in a direction perpendicular to the front surface of the flat picture screen 21. When one skilled in the art takes such teachings to modify the shelf of Vardon, the screws of Maruta would be applied in a direction perpendicular with respect to the horizontal glass panel 1, i.e., in a vertical direction.

Claim 1, however, recites a plurality of screws horizontally penetrated and therefore, the combination of Lye, Vardon and Maruta is not believed to render claim 1 obvious.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and 7, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 1.

To more fully claim the invention, Applicant adds new claims 8-15. Dependent claim 8 is believed to be patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

Independent claim 9 is believed to be patentable because Lye, Vardon and Maruta do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a refrigerator wherein the first side surface of the glass supporter and an exterior side surface of the first bracket form a substantially flush exterior side surface.

Claim 10, which depends from claim 9, is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons submitted for claim 9. In addition, claim 10 is believed to be independently patentable because Lye, Vardon and Maruta do not teach, suggest or provide motivation for a refrigerator wherein the glass supporter is disposed between the first and the second brackets.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 10, independent claim 11 is believed to be patentable. Claim 15, which depend from claim 1, and claims 12-14, which depend from claim 11, are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims.

In addition, claim 15 is independently patentable because none of the cited references discloses or suggests a refrigerator wherein the bending portion comprises a plurality of grooves and each of the plurality of supporting ribs fits into a corresponding one of the plurality of grooves.

As shown in an exemplary embodiment of the invention, Fig. 3 shows “the supporting bracket 70 formed with a bending portion 74 fitted to the supporting ribs 66 and supporting the main portion 62.” Paragraph 32. As a result, “the bending portion 74 allows the supporting bracket 70 to more stably support the glass supporter 60 and the glass 50.” Id. Not only does such a construction prevent the glass supporter 60 and the supporting bracket 70 from undesired shaking or vibration, the plurality of grooves 75 and the plurality of supporting ribs 66 also makes the assembly of such as shelf easier. Applicant submits that the above benefits of the claimed invention are not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 10/816,192

ATTY DOCKET NO.: Q80883

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Seok-Won Stuart Lee
Limited Recognition No. L0212

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 31, 2006